

THE *Nation*

June 25, 1955

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Biology and the Bomb

by Paul G. 'Espinasse

Gray New World

by John W. Aldridge

Labor's Dixie Victory

by Alfred Maund

Salvaging the Desert

by Peveril Meigs

EVERY
WEEK
SINCE
1865

JUN 25 1955
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Letters

On U. M. T. . . .

Dear Sirs: In the April 16, 1955, issue of *The Nation*, John M. Swomley, Jr., deals with an article called *The Kids Want U. M. T.* which I wrote for *This Week* magazine. In discussing it Mr. Swomley makes some assertions and brings in some implications which I cannot allow to stand unchallenged.

First, he implies that I have a strong bias in favor of U. M. T. There is no foundation for this charge. I had come across the results of a poll by the Institute of Student Opinion indicating overwhelming support of the idea of U. M. T. by high-school students. I thought this was significant, whether the high-school students happened to be right or wrong. *This Week* agreed that it could be the basis of an article reporting a little-known fact. That's why *The Kids Want U. M. T.* was written.

Second, Mr. Swomley says that my interpretation of the I. S. O. poll results is misleading. Would it help if I quoted a pretty good authority backing up my general interpretation? As you know, the I. S. O. poll is conducted by *Scholastic* magazine. On March 24, 1954, after careful examination of the ballots *Scholastic* summed up the results this way: "U. S. high school students are overwhelmingly in favor of compulsory military training. . . . The boys were for it—66 per cent; the girls—65 per cent."

Third, Mr. Swomley implies that I concealed the fact that the high-school students did not agree on a specific U. M. T. plan. His reasoning seems to go something like this: "You're right in saying that 66 per cent of the students polled voted in favor of compulsory military training on the first part of the I. S. O. ballot. But that doesn't mean anything. When the students are asked about specific U. M. T. proposals, they vote no. That means they're really not in favor of U. M. T. at all." I'm convinced that anyone who interprets the results that way is wrong. The I. S. O. poll did not attempt to cover the whole range of U. M. T. programs. For example, students had no chance to vote on a plan which would break U. M. T. training into two three-month periods—a plan which, after checking with hundreds of students, I found to be popular. The poll did list a plan which would have required students to draw lots to determine whether they would go in the army for six months or for two years. Many of those who voted against

this plan made it clear they did so because of the lottery feature. Nobody seems to be seriously proposing drawing lots any more.

Mr. Swomley says that *This Week* had such overwhelming confidence in my absolute accuracy that the magazine "apparently thought it unnecessary to check [my] facts." Alas, how little Mr. Swomley knows about editors. I was grilled at least a dozen times by one *This Week* editor between the date my article was accepted and the date it appeared.

I realize that Mr. Swomley did not intend to cast aspersions. He is a strong believer in the evils of U. M. T. and is certainly entitled to defend his opinions.

MYRICK E. LAND
Jackson Heights, N. Y.

. . . And the Answer

Dear Sirs: Let me comment on Mr. Land's points: First, my article said nothing about bias. But how else interpret such statements as: "The country's top military experts say that universal military training is the fastest and fairest way to build up our military reserves"? Why doesn't Mr. Land say that the air force and navy have opposed U. M. T. and have gone along because the army wants it? Why not report that the National Guard, Reserve Officers' Association, Naval Reserve, Air Force Association, Air National Guard have testified it is not needed and that some have said

it would be harmful to national defense? Did Mr. Land report the attitude of General MacArthur, General Wedemeyer, and others against U. M. T.?

Mr. Land states in his letter: "I had come across a report of the Institute of Student Opinion poll." Why doesn't Mr. Land come right out and say that he is an official employee of *Scholastic* magazine, which sponsored the poll?

Second, to support his interpretation of the poll, Mr. Land here cites *Scholastic* as a good authority. I would hardly call *Scholastic's* interpretation of its own poll authoritative, nor do I think an interpretation of it by a *Scholastic* employee necessarily objective.

As to Mr. Land's third point, I certainly implied that Mr. Land concealed part of the poll, and further I would assert it. Anyone who has studied the U. M. T. question and checked with members of Congress and others as Mr. Land has must have known that the only U. M. T. proposals before Congress during the past five years were essentially those for six months' compulsory training plus seven and a half years' reserve duty, which received an adverse vote in the *Scholastic* poll. Not to mention this is concealment. The point that Land makes regarding students favoring a plan of summer training may be true, but there is no evidence to support it. They may prefer health and physical training to military training, or something else entirely, but questions which don't present alternatives reveal very little.

New York JOHN M. SWOMLEY, JR.

Two Remarkable Features

J. Bronowski on Albert Einstein

The distinguished British scientist and essayist pays a remarkable tribute to one of the truly great men of history. Here is an evaluation of Einstein both as a scientist and as a man.

Roderick Seidenberg on The Sense of the Future

Mr. Seidenberg's book "Post-Historic Man" was called "brilliant" by Reinhold Niebuhr, "timeless and timely" by Nobel laureate H. J. Muller, "the work of a profound intelligence" by Waldo Frank. His article in *The Nation* is a challenging commentary on the ultimate destiny of mankind.

Coming Soon in *The Nation*

The Shape of Things

Civil Rights: Planned Surrender

Popular interest in the Supreme Court's decision of May 31 referring compliance with its decision of last year in the segregated-school cases to the federal district courts has diverted attention from the studied effort of the Democratic leadership in Congress to bury three important civil-rights amendments sponsored by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The first of these, introduced by Representative Powell, provides that any state seeking to participate in the military-reserve program must refrain from practicing racial discrimination in the National Guard. The second, an amendment to the school-construction bill, would require that states seeking benefits under the act first certify that their school facilities are open to all children without regard to race, in conformity with the Supreme Court's decision. The third amendment, offered to the housing bill, requires all agencies applying for benefits under the federal housing program to certify their adherence to non-discriminatory policies and practices. There is nothing revolutionary about these proposals; they are simply designed to carry into effect promises made by both parties many times.

The three amendments, moreover, have a special relevance to the school-segregation issue. Southern school districts might hesitate quite a time before rejecting federal funds; in many districts the financial inducement might be sufficient to tip the scales in favor of immediate compliance with the Supreme Court's ruling. In much the same fashion, a non-discriminatory federal housing program would weaken the resistance to integrated schools, for the argument is now advanced of course that segregated schools merely reflect existing social patterns in housing. Throughout the South the National Guard has been one of the sturdiest bastions of Jim Crow; to induce the Southern states to abandon discrimination in National Guard units would necessarily weaken resistance to integrated schools. Should Congress sidetrack the three amendments, therefore, it will have given dangerous aid and comfort to forces in the South that seek to delay compliance with the Supreme Court's decision and, if at all possible, to nullify it.

Where The Blame Falls

Efforts to kill the three amendments have been directed for the most part by liberal Northern Democrats who seem far more concerned with party unity

than are their Dixiecrat colleagues. Even stranger than their behavior is the President's. He has characterized the amendments as "extraneous" and has said that civil-rights issues should be decided on their merits and not in the form of amendments to existing legislation. But as Mr. Powell points out, it is almost impossible nowadays to get a civil-rights issue before Congress; the amendment route is about the only avenue not blocked by the Dixiecrats and their friends in both parties.

If President Eisenhower feels that civil-rights issues should be considered on their merits, he could easily send a special message to Congress recommending legislation of the type proposed in these amendments. It is one thing for Senator Eastland to charge that the N. A. A. C. P. is attempting to hold up important legislation in the field of housing and education by insisting on equal benefits; it is something else again when liberal Democrats and the President echo the charge. The Dixiecrats are the ones who are holding up important social legislation in Congress and who have established a virtually complete blackout on civil-rights issues. Neither in housing nor in education can genuine social progress be purchased by ducking the issue of equal benefits. After all, it was the President who said, on March 19, 1953, that it is legally, logically, and morally wrong to permit discrimination in the expenditure of federal funds.

The Wayward Southern Press

Alfred Maund's article in this issue will provide many readers with their first reasonably full account of the recent railroad and telephone strikes in the South. The Southern press, at any rate during the early stages of the strikes, showed extraordinary bias in its coverage. "Nearly every dispatch from the South," observed the May 27 issue of the *Guild Reporter*, official newspaper of the American Newspaper Guild, "carried accounts of reported cable cuttings and train derailments attributed by management to 'strikers' sabotage." In contrast, injuries to strikers at the hands of armed company thugs got little attention." Mr. Maund's article redresses the balance in this respect. But perhaps the best answer to the repeated charges of lawlessness hurled at the strikers was the opinion handed down by Judge Courtney C. Wells of the Kentucky Circuit Court in denying the Louisiana and Southern Railroad's plea for an injunction: "I have never seen a case where the plaintiff has as little ground for asking an injunction. . . . I have driven up and down these picket lines as late as 10:30 at night and

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I have never seen men acting more peaceably. . . The very purpose of these men being on the picket line is to prevent, by proper influence, other employees going to work. The law gives them that right."

While Judge Wells's denial of the injunction was given adequate coverage, most newspapers published little if any of his argument.

The U. A. W. Agreements

The guaranteed-wage plan embodied in the new contracts between the United Automobile Workers and Ford and General Motors is not quite the revolutionary development which both union and management would have us believe. At the outset of the negotiations the U. A. W. was demanding a true guaranteed annual wage—substantially full-time weekly unemployment benefits combined with almost complete job security for the whole labor force (the subject was discussed at some length in *The Nation* of April 23). What emerged was a plan for limited benefits for part of the labor force under conditions which may increase job insecurity. The agreement provides benefits which when combined with existing government unemployment-compensation payments will amount to 65 per cent of take-home pay for four weeks and 60 per cent for additional weeks up to twenty-six. This gives labor only a little more than it would get under current proposals for increasing government unemployment compensation—the President recently suggested 50 per cent as a fair standard for such benefits. Moreover, employees will have to wait a year before they are eligible for any so-called G. A. W. benefits. This provision, together with certain other complex compromises which modified the original plan, gives management a year in which to shake down its labor force in order to minimize its financial obligations under the plan. Management's ultimate objective will be to divide its labor force into a group of high-seniority workers eligible for benefits but likely to have little need for them and a much larger group of low-seniority workers who will be eligible only for small benefits if any and will be the first to be laid off.

One weakness of the plan is the fact that it is tied to existing government unemployment-insurance legislation. It is already evident that under the laws of most states maximum unemployment insurance cannot be given to workers who are receiving the kind of private unemployment insurance envisaged by G. A. W. It is also evident that business will lobby ardently against any attempt to alter these laws.

DESPITE these drawbacks, the automobile workers' contracts have established a useful precedent in saddling employers directly with some responsibility for the security of workers in a seasonal industry. And apart from the G. A. W., the contracts do embody significant advances for labor. Basic wages are increased by 6 to 8.5 cents an hour; peripheral benefits such as

vacation, sickness, and disability allowances, pensions, and life insurance are raised, in some instances substantially. The increase in current cash payments alone are appreciably more than workers in other industries have received this year. The automobile workers have given other unions a mark to shoot at.

The Bryson Case

A federal jury in San Francisco, after acquitting Hugh Bryson, former president of the now defunct National Union of Marine Cooks and Stewards, of having falsely denied membership in the Communist Party in a Taft-Hartley affidavit in 1951, proceeded then to find him guilty of "affiliation with" the party. The jury was apparently confused, as we are, by the distinction between "membership" and "affiliation"; at one point they returned to the courtroom to ask Judge William C. Mathes for permission to consult a dictionary. The request was refused, but the judge did "illustrate" his previous instructions by saying that affiliation was similar to a situation "in which a man and woman live together without being married." The analogy is not impressive. Some states may recognize common-law marriages, but crimes are defined by law, not by custom. "Membership" itself can be a dangerously vague con-

cept for a jury to apply; "affiliation" compounds the uncertainty and confusion. Disregarding a suggestion from the prosecution that bail be set at \$30,000 pending an appeal, Judge Mathes fixed bail at \$50,000—a figure which would seem to be harshly vindictive as well as excessive.

During the trial Judge Mathes instructed the attorneys, reporters, and spectators in the courtroom that they were "enjoined and restrained" from interviewing, photographing, or otherwise "molesting or communicating with" the jurors even after the verdict. The San Francisco *Chronicle* immediately announced that it would seek a test of the validity of this unusual order by attempting to interview them. The *Chronicle* contends that the order abridges the freedom of the press. It would also seem to abridge Bryson's right to a fair trial, for in this day and age a public trial has come to mean a trial to which the public has access through the press, which constitutes its eyes and ears. Recently a judge refused to permit the New York *Post* to inspect an official transcript, and the *Post*, like the *Chronicle*, promptly announced that it would test the order. Today as never before the press should be encouraged to resist a tendency on the part of many judges and law-enforcement officials to mask judicial proceedings in a qualified secrecy.

ADENAUER TO MOSCOW

The German Reaction . . . by Terence Prittie

Bonn
THREE weeks before the invitation to visit Moscow was extended to Dr. Adenauer a commentator of the North West German Radio Corporation in Cologne threw out the suggestion that after Austrian Chancellor Raab and Yugoslav dictator Tito, Dr. Adenauer might be the third in the succession of European statesmen to be approached by the Kremlin. This commentator was a lonely prophet, and his suggestion was laughed to scorn. Practically nobody in Germany believed that a personal approach to Dr. Adenauer was a remote possibility. In the first place the rulers of the Soviet Union have sponsored an active propaganda campaign directed against him. In

the second place they have every reason to regard him as committed heart and soul to the Western cause. They could, after all, afford to wait for an octogenarian's death or at least his departure from the political stage. Finally, the Soviet Union has on its hands its own satellite East German regime.

During the present phase of German history the German people have become understandably apathetic to major political issues. This is due to the failures of their former leaders, the stunning effect of the lost war, the division of Germany into two mere "semi-states," and the real need for Germans to earn money, rebuild their homes, and bring back their standard of living to normal. Only in political and press circles did the invitation to Dr. Adenauer become an absorbing subject of conversation.

The Chancellor's Christian Democratic Party was careful not to make too much of it and stressed the need for careful prior appraisal of possibilities in concert with the Western powers, with whom the federal republic is now allied. Only one leading member of this party, the speaker of the lower house, Dr. Eugen Gerstenmaier, could be induced on the evening of June 7 to say that he hoped that Dr. Adenauer would go to Moscow. Dr. Adenauer's coalition allies, the the Refugee Party (B. H. E.) and the German Party, were equally reserved. In their first short statements they both urged careful examination of the invitation and expressed the hope that it would not be turned down without due consideration.

The only party in the government coalition which was prepared to say something definite was the Free

TERENCE PRITTIE is the Manchester Guardian's correspondent in West Germany.

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Democratic Party. For months past its chairman, Dr. Thomas Dehler, has been toying with the idea of a "third solution" midway between the neutralization of a united Germany and Germany's continued division into two states belonging to rival military alliances. The F. D. P. youth had asked repeatedly for an examination of the possibility of a united Germany opting out of NATO. The F. D. P. member of the federal Parliament, Hermann Schwann, called on the Soviet High Commissioner in East Germany, M. Pushkin, ostensibly to discuss the question of German p. o. w.'s still in Soviet hands. But Schwann betrayed his real motive when he said he intended to use this only as an "introduction" to political themes.

On June 8 the F. D. P. Press Service declared that the German government had no choice as to the Soviet invitation. It could not possibly reject it. The press service saw four good reasons why Dr. Adenauer should visit Moscow, or at least meet M. Molotov at some convenient point. He could help solve the question of the p. o. w.'s; he could explain the federal government's foreign policy to the Russians; he could improve East-West trade prospects; finally he could assist the process of German reunification.

SINCE the Russian invitation came every West German newspaper of note has devoted at least a couple of leading articles to the subject, and some, like *Die Welt* and the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, are running a series of articles examining all aspects of the situation. Most of them show the same reservation as the political parties. No one expects Dr. Adenauer to "bring back peace with honor" from Moscow. It is far more important, the *Frankfurter Allgemeine* wrote, that a basis of mutual trust should be established—"this is the prerequisite to German reunification." Dr. Adenauer's real task would not be to wring immediate concessions from the Soviet Union but to convince its rulers that the federal republic will never indulge in any aggressive action against its eastern neighbors. This might do something toward removing the greatest fear in the Russian mind—that American atomic power will be linked with the Ger-

man infantrymen and tank crews who fought their way to the gates of Moscow twelve years ago.

Nothing must be done, said *Die Welt*, without full consultation with the Western powers. "We believe," it went on, "that it is wrong to suppose that Germany will ever try to be referee between East and West and derive purely selfish advantages in this way. Even after this invitation nobody in Germany believes that we have all at once become a great power again." The editor of *Die Welt*, Hans Zehrer, emphasized how easy it would be for Germany to lose the confidence of the West by making too much of a rapprochement with the Soviet Union. Rapallo and Tauroggen, the 1922 and 1811 Russo-German pacts, were still fresh in Western minds. So was the Hitler-Stalin pact of 1939. There should be no deviation therefore from the straight course of loyalty to existing alliances.

It has been quickly pointed out, moreover, that Dr. Adenauer will not be in a position to make immediate concessions to the Soviet Union. "Adenauer will be unable to shift his point of view one iota on three questions," wrote Frank Vogl, editor of the *Duesseldorfer Mittag*. "He cannot renounce the Paris Agreements; he will reject an 'Austrian solution' for Germany; and he will not recognize the puppet East German Republic." (In Washington, Adenauer confirmed Vogl's view.) Like many other Germans, Vogl sees a possible ruse in the Russian move. Suppose Adenauer goes to Moscow, and German hopes are allowed to run too high beforehand? Suppose then that he comes back manifestly empty-handed? This is a real danger, Vogl thinks, for it could lead to a neutralist propaganda offensive which would seriously weaken Adenauer's position at home and his prestige abroad.

A visit to Moscow, wrote Werner Friedman in the *Sueddeutsche Zeitung*, would be Dr. Adenauer's severest test so far. Now he would have a chance to live up to Churchill's dictum that he is the greatest German statesman since Bismarck. Nor should all the credit for securing the invitation be given to Adenauer. The fundamental reason why it has come is that the Soviet Union is ready to bid for German friendship

in the East-West cold war which still continues. The cold war, for that matter, was chiefly responsible for the granting of German sovereignty and for the acceptance of the federal republic as a partner of the Western democracies.

WHAT could Adenauer achieve in talks with the rulers of the Soviet Union other than establish some measure of mutual trust and convince them that two world wars have taught Germans their lesson? This is probably the most important question that Germans are asking themselves today. It is not surprising that after ten years in the diplomatic wilderness they are uncertain as to what the answer should be. They have had little guidance from Dr. Adenauer himself. In the one press interview which he has given, the Chancellor said there might be an opportunity to discuss "controlled disarmament" throughout the world and to link this with present plans for German rearmament within NATO. Dr. Adenauer has discussed this possibility in Washington and explored ways of setting up a security system in Europe which would assist German reunification.

Press commentators have been quick to point out that M. Molotov opened up one avenue of escape from the present diplomatic deadlock in Central Europe at last year's Berlin conference. This was his proposal of a system of interlocking pacts among European countries. One German suggestion now is that an "arrangement" might be made between the NATO powers and those which signed the Eastern-bloc pact. Another is that the federal republic should stay out of NATO and make its military contribution through Western European Union. Yet another is that there should be an agreed withdrawal of Western and Soviet troops behind the Rhine and Oder rivers and that the German army should act as a "Central European police force" between them. Much more will be heard of these various possibilities when practical progress is made toward restoring diplomatic relations between Bonn and Moscow.

Western Germany is still not a fully mature community, and Moscow's invitation has obviously reawakened some fears in Western

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capitals. There are four valid reasons for such fears. First, the German government may bite off more than it can chew. Talk of Germany being a "bridge between East and West" has been current for a long time, and there is a curiously strong belief among Germans that they know how to "manage" the Russians. This is founded on Rapallo, on the close economic and military ties which bound the two countries together in the 1920's, and on satisfactory trading with Russia before the Second World War. Overconfidence now would be fatal if applied to relations with the Soviet Union.

In the second place there is already a feeling that Dr. Adenauer should go to Moscow before the next four-power conference. This feeling will grow as it is increasingly realized that this is a unique opportunity for the federal republic to take the diplomatic initiative in European affairs. The view held by Allied observers in Germany is that a visit should take place after the four-power conference, and it has

since been so decided in Washington.

There is also the danger that the F. D. P. will try to capitalize on the new situation. This party is still an unsteady influence in Germany, owing to the persistent efforts of its right-wingers to develop it into a national-conservative "melting-pot." Thanks to its leavening of ex-generals and junior officers of the Wehrmacht, the F. D. P. regards itself as a repository of military lore and the appropriate guide in German rearmament.

The fourth danger is less easily defined. It is the possible change in general approach from circumspection to opportunism. This is clearly tempting for German politicians. The 17,000,000 people of East Germany cannot be left indefinitely under Communist domination. The economies of the two halves of Germany are growing steadily farther apart. Berlin is as isolated and vulnerable as ever. No beginning can be made with the coming German campaign for the return of the territories east of the Oder-Neisse line until the primary unification of

the Soviet zone with the federal republic takes place.

Dr. Adenauer's "roving ambassador," Professor Walter Hallstein, has declared that the months ahead are going to try the patience of the German people very severely. An intelligible objective—reunification—has been brought definitely nearer by the Austrian treaty and the invitation to Adenauer. The very fact that it looks attainable for the first time since the Potsdam agreement was signed is liable to unbalance German judgment and the new decorum which marks Bonn's conduct of foreign affairs. The Austrian treaty produced a period of crisis, with German ambassadors being suddenly recalled and instructed to make frequent and regular reports from now on. The strain on German nerves became apparent then; it is going to become greater and not less as a result of Dr. Adenauer's success, and the reactions of the German people—the 50,000,000 West Germans who can be watched and analyzed—will be of greater significance than ever before.

SALVAGING THE DESERT

Light on an Old Problem . . by Peveril Meigs

THE city of Albuquerque in the upper Rio Grande Valley, a center of cattle raising, irrigated crops, mining, and Pueblo Indians, acquired international prominence last spring when it was chosen for the site of an international conference on arid lands. The conference was sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science and its Southwestern and Rocky Mountain

PEVERIL MEIGS is a geographer at the Quartermaster Research and Development Center, Natick, Massachusetts, and chairman of the Arid Zone Commission of the International Geographical Union. This article is published with the consent but not necessarily with the indorsement of the Department of the Army.

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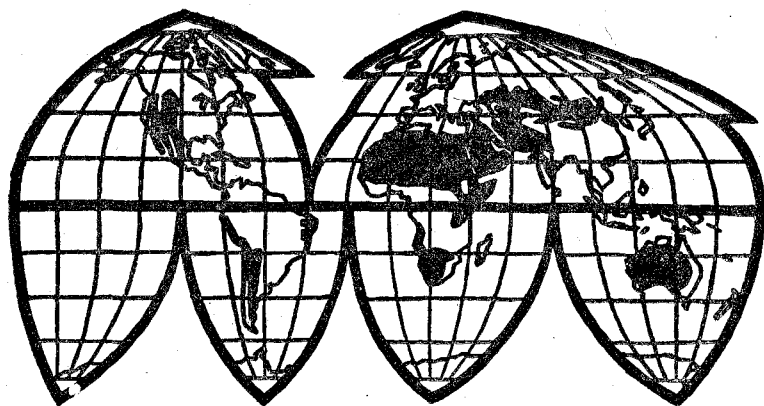
Division in cooperation with the Advisory Committee on Arid Zone Research of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. The aid of the UNESCO committee was offered as part of its program to encourage international attack on the problems of arid lands. Similar symposiums have been stimulated by UNESCO in Ankara, Jerusalem, Montpellier, and New Delhi.

The traveling expenses of those who attended the conference, which were of course heavy for the sixty-odd invited scientists from twenty-five foreign countries, were shared by UNESCO, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the National Science Foundation. In addition, more than \$9,000 was raised by voluntary contributions from farm and business

organizations and individuals in and around the Rio Grande Valley.

For a scientific gathering the conference attracted an unusual amount of public interest. On the opening night at the University of New Mexico it was attended by several hundred farmers, business men, and other members of the public, in addition to the more than one hundred invited scientists. In the last three days the specialists met at Socorro for full discussion of different aspects of the general problem.

As in 1952 at Jerusalem interest was stimulated by local conditions. The meeting hall at Albuquerque was invaded by pale insistent dust from the surrounding desert, a reminder that the Southwest is experiencing what is already one of the



Arid and Semi-arid Areas of the World

eight worst droughts of the past six hundred years. Visitors arriving from the East by air flew above cultivated fields half covered with drifting sand. Grazing lands were so dried up that the governors of Arizona and New Mexico had asked the President to declare their states drought-disaster areas.

Some people hoped that the assembled desert specialists would perform a miracle. One substantial contributor remarked: "I expect those experts to get results. If they don't produce water, next time I'll give my money to a preacher." The meetings brought forth no panaceas, but they did focus the wisdom and experience of scientists in many fields on the theme question: What is the future of the arid lands?

THE widely held belief that the climate of these regions has become drier was almost unanimously rejected. All the evidence indicated that there has been no perceptible decline in precipitation within historical times. Dr. Terah Smiley, geochronologist from the Tree-Ring Laboratory of the University of Arizona, reported the occurrence of cycles of dry years, irregularly spaced and unpredictable, but no long-term trend. Archaeological evidence that conditions are as humid now as 2,000 years ago was introduced by Dr. Pedro Armillas of the Mexican National School of Anthropology; Dr. Michael Evenari, professor of botany at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem; Colonel Omar Draz, director of the Desert Range Development Project of the Desert Institute, Heliopolis, Egypt; and Jean Tixeront, chief engineer of Public Works,

Tunis. Dr. Evenari stated flatly: "When we followed the land-use method of 200 B. C. in the Negev desert, we succeeded; when we followed modern methods, we failed." M. Tixeront said that abandoned Roman wells, reservoirs, and cisterns in the Tunisian dry lands had been viewed as proof of greater aridity today, but that when these water-collecting systems were cleaned out and reconstituted they provided as much water as ever. The extensive olive groves of the Sfax area were started experimentally in a treeless plain because the finding of Roman olive-oil presses suggested that olives had once been raised there. The idea that archaeological research can improve present-day water use received great encouragement at Albuquerque.

The latest word on rain-making is still "not proved." Exhaustive statistical analyses of the results of carefully controlled cloud-seeding experiments have yielded no proof of significant additions to precipitation. However, Dr. E. G. Bowen, chief of the Division of Radiophysics of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, Sydney, Australia, pointed out that the world-wide increase of rainfall on certain dates was related to the passage of the earth through fields of meteoric dust. Dr. S. Naqvi, director of the Pakistan Meteorological Service, thought that cloud seeding with powdered salt had brought a substantial increase of rainfall in Pakistan but that another year of trials would be needed for verification. Dr. Vincent Schaefer reported favorable results under certain conditions in Project Cirrus in

New Mexico but admitted that the subject was still controversial. In the long run, control of the weather is a distinct probability, in the opinion of Glenn W. Brier, meteorologist of the United States Weather Bureau. If and when such control comes, Dr. Enrique Beltran, director of the Mexican Institute of Renewable Natural Resources, suggested, a new profession may be required—rainfall management, to deal with such problems as flood damage, accelerated erosion, and rainfall theft.

DEMINERALIZATION of the inexhaustible water supplies of the ocean, another alluring possibility, received much attention at the meetings. Dr. W. F. J. M. Krul of the University of Delft, director of the Netherlands Institute of Water Supply, reported that West European research on demineralization is being coordinated by a working party that he heads. Research on all four principal methods of water desalting has been stimulated in the United States by a five-year \$2,000,000 program approved by Congress in 1952 and administered by the Department of the Interior; this was reported on at Albuquerque by Sheppard T. Powell, adviser to the federal Saline Water Conversion Program. The goals set are costs of 38 cents per thousand gallons for municipal water and 12 cents per thousand gallons for irrigation water—about \$125 and \$40 per acre-foot. Transportation costs would be in addition. Since present costs by use of vapor-compression distillation are about \$375 per acre-foot and by solar distillation about \$325 per acre-foot, the goal is still some distance in the future. However, according to L. N. McClellan of the Bureau of Reclamation, Denver, the city of Colorado Springs recently offered \$350 an acre-foot for water now being used for agricultural purposes, and according to Dr. Louis Koenig a hard-pressed Texas city paid \$1,000 per acre-foot for water hauled in. The normal price charged for irrigation water from federal projects is from \$2 to \$6.

With the sea and air written off for the present as sources of extra water at reasonable cost, most of the meetings were devoted to consideration of how best to conserve and utilize the existing terrestrial

sources. Though the principles of good usage are not new, the meetings furnished a valuable review of techniques and unsolved problems. The statements of agronomists, botanists, and zoologists on the deterioration of range lands were exemplified on field excursions. That unpalatable plants such as juniper and mesquite are encroaching on desirable grasses was only too clear. The foreign scientists were surprised to find little or no use being made of the device of spreading the water from slope runoff, a common practice in the Sahara.

The accelerating insufficiency of water for irrigation in the Rio Grande Valley was discussed. In the area served by Elephant Butte Dam, with a normal annual requirement of 3.1 feet per acre, the outlook this year is for an allotment of only 2½ inches. There has been feverish well-drilling by individual farmers to tap the ground water for additional supplies—these may tide the situation over for a few years but will ultimately require replenishment by periods of greater precipitation. Below El Paso the in-

creasing salinity of the Rio Grande due to the return of water from upstream irrigation has caused many farms to be abandoned. Silting up at the head of the reservoir is steadily reducing the storage capacity of Elephant Butte Dam, and the salt-cedar thickets on the reservoir delta transpire enormous amounts of the declining water supply. To conserve water these are now being killed by a chemical spray from planes.

A startling paper on the economics of arid lands was read by Dr. Louis Koenig, associate director of the Southwest Research Institute of San Antonio, Texas. He considered irrigation to be an uneconomic use of water in the desert, since the same amount could support sixty times as many people if used for industry instead of for irrigation. He suggested that desert oases should concentrate on manufacturing and get their food from humid regions—a revolutionary thesis made somewhat credible by the recent expansion of industry in Southwestern cities, the difficulties of Southwestern irrigators, and the increased productivity made possible in the humid Eastern United States

by supplemental irrigation. One comment was that certain crops, such as dates and long-staple cotton, require desert climate.

The question of how to prevent oversettling of farm lands beyond the water capacity of the land was not faced. In informal discussions the most practical solution offered was that lending agencies might have to play the unpopular role of applying the brakes to the uneconomic establishment of new farms.

Dr. Gilbert White, president of Haverford College, United States member of the UNESCO Advisory Committee on Arid Zone Research and chairman of the planning committee for the New Mexico conference, summed up the main value of the meetings as "the building of bridges" between countries, between scientists of different disciplines, and between scientists and the general public. Not only the meetings but the bus rides, discussion groups, meal-time talks, and coffee breaks led to the development of friendships and a sense of common problems among the foreign and American participants.

BIOLOGY AND THE BOMB

Some "Hidden" Perils . . . by Paul G. 'Espinasse

Hull, England

BIOLOGISTS have not, on the whole, been very enthusiastic about the consequences to be expected from the letting off of thermo-nuclear bombs. Most of the voices which have been heard most widely by ordinary people have been those of the physicists, who, after all, made the things. Such attention as has been given to the biological effects of thermo-nuclear explosions has been concentrated upon the genetic consequences likely to show themselves in a population exposed to the possibly abnormal amounts of radiation which might well follow

PAUL G. 'ESPINASSE is professor of zoology at the University of Hull, England.

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• Shape of Things to Go

such an explosion in some areas. The effects upon people, however,

need not be only of a direct kind, such as would result from the occurrence of mutations in them, for people do not live in a dead world. They live, on the contrary, in an environment which consists very significantly of other living and related things.

The relations established between living things, generally over very long periods of time, are one of the studies of the ecologists. These relations are often very close and very complicated, and any change in one member of such an association is likely to disturb the others. It is the suggestion of this article that such disturbances are conceivable consequences of the use, or even perhaps of the testing, of thermo-nuclear weapons. This is because genetic



Stuttgarter Nachrichten

Last H-Bomb Test: "Sorry, We Miscalculated a Little."

changes, if they occur, affect not isolated individuals or isolated species in moments of time, but breeding individuals and vitally related species through quite indefinite time. They affect not man alone, but his associates—his parasites and his symbionts.

As an example we may perhaps consider the trypanosomes. These protozoa are very common. They live in all kinds of hosts—snails, sheep, and many other animals. The great majority of species do no appreciable harm to their hosts. A tiny number, however, are very harmful and are responsible for a great deal of disease and death among men and women and their domestic animals. Some of them cause the serious sleeping sickness of the tropics. There is a good deal of reason to suppose that these pathogenic forms are those that have changed or "mutated" in comparatively recent times and so have not yet had their habits trimmed by natural selection so as to become tolerable to the host. It is probable, too, that the hosts have not yet had time to get their habits trimmed so as to coexist with the parasite. It is the imported cattle, not the native, that suffer worst from the trypanosome. The whole group of trypanosomes is apt to vary when kept in a laboratory, and it seems likely that part of what is happening is the occurrence of mutations.

IN ORDER to grasp the relevance of situations such as the one sketched to a consideration of the biological consequences of thermo-nuclear explosions, it is necessary to form some idea of what a "mutation" is. A living thing may be usefully regarded as an "open system"—that

is to say that in so far as it is alive it is always capturing bits and pieces from the surrounding universe and making them into itself, and by the same token it is always losing bits and pieces of itself to the circumambient universe. It has, therefore, in a sense, the kind of persistence which we recognize in a whirlpool; at the end of five minutes' observation we call it the same whirlpool, though it probably does not contain many of the molecules of water which were there to start with. One aspect or mode of this habit of continual capture shows itself in reproduction. When a chromosome replicates, it probably does so by the capture of suitable bricks to use in repeating its pattern. If anything goes wrong with this process, what is made is not a replica but something different, and perhaps something new.

In the vast majority of cases this imperfect replica will not be viable, or not be functional, but in the odd case it will, and if the replicating structure is a chromosome its replicas will be replicas of its changed self, and the man, the animal, the plant, that grows from it will have a new genetic constitution. Most viable changes in sexually reproducing forms are what is called recessive, which just means that they will not show their effects until two of the changed elements turn up together in the same animal, one from its father and one from its mother. It has been known since the nineteen twenties that radiation—for instance, X-rays—greatly increases the incidence of mutations in fruit flies.

There are two ways of imagining how radiation increases the incidence of mutations. It may, first, be

supposed that radiant energy simply kicks the replicating entity from one stable state through an unstable state to another and different state of stability, rather as one flicks the lever of an electric-light switch from a stable up position through an unstable horizontal position to a new and stable down position. The new stable structure can now be supposed to be able to replicate its new state, and its replicas to reproduce themselves indefinitely. Alternatively, and perhaps a little more attractively, the radiant energy may be thought of as bringing into existence, perhaps for very short periods only, improbable micro-environments from which the replicating element may capture imperfect bricks—bricks, for instance, which fit on one side but are wrong on the other. If these false bricks get built in, then once more in the great majority of cases the new and different structures will not be viable, but in the odd case it may be. Such a case will provide a mutant and new form. So far as is known this kind of thing is generally true—true, that is, for viruses, bacteria, protozoa, worms, plants, and man.

MUTATIONS occur in nature. They are rare, but they happen. Just exactly how and why they happen is not really clearly known, but it seems reasonable to suppose that some at least of them happen as improbable consequences of the background radiation against which all evolution has certainly taken place. We call this background radiation low because we are used to it, and we think of evolution as a process geared to such a rate. The absolute mutation rate resulting from cosmic rays and all other "natural" causes is very hard to estimate in any population. There is no reason whatever to suppose that it is the same for fruit flies, mice, and men, and the mutability of individual points in chromosomes certainly varies too.

The background radiation varies widely over the surface of the earth. Whether mutation rates in, say, man, vary also over the earth is a question which it would seem risky at present to attempt to answer. There is nothing sacred or safe about any particular level of background radiation. It is just that level

to which the local populations have shown, by being still there, that they are adjusted, and to which they respond by no more mutations than they can cope with.

Now bearing all this in mind, it is doubtful whether a biologist with any sense of responsibility can claim to be able to forecast the consequences of any change in the level of background radiation. It may be possible to forecast the effect of a given change on human mutation rates, though more than one view seems tenable even here. It is surely not possible, now or within the measurable future, to form any idea of the consequences of such a change on genetic mutations in the unimaginably large numbers of replicating entities—over and above the chromosomes of men and women—which exist on every few thousand

square miles of the earth's surface. There are viruses, bacteria, parasitic and symbiotic amoebae, tape worms, thread worms, flukes, and many many others to remember. A "bar" mutation in a harmless bacterium in our guts may be an unlikely consequence of radiation, but a moment's thought will show that the absolute numbers of, for instance, parasitic and symbiotic creatures subjected to the change in the level of radiation caused by the explosion of an H-bomb is really very large indeed, and that most of them have a lot of replicating sub-elements. Even if they are subjected to this change only for a fairly short time the number of occasions on which a "bad" mutation might occur begins to look rather large, and if you run a risk often enough, the improbable seems less comfortably negligible.

There is a further point. A good many pathogenic organisms do not practice sexual reproduction. If a viable mutation occurs in one of these, then it will not have to wait to show its effects till it gets represented twice in a cell. Once is enough. It does not take long for a change in chemical habit in a trypanosome to kill a lot of people.

It is perhaps considerations such as these that account for a certain reserve in some biologists when they hear the cheerful talk of some physicists about "safe dosage levels." Safe over a small area, perhaps, or safe for a time. But over a continent? Over a world? Safe for days? For weeks? For years? Safe for the unimaginable millions of delicately integrated micro-organisms? Just who would say so? And on what grounds?

DILEMMA IN SAIGON

Which Way Democracy? . . by Sam A. Jaffe

Saigon
ALONG the Rue Catinat, Saigon's Fifth Avenue, scores of small French automobiles scurried to and fro, all trying desperately to overtake and pass each other. In one of the expensive sidewalk cafes that line the street, a young Vietnamese who was in the government of President Ngo Dinh Diem but spent most of his time, like so many young men employed by Mr. Diem, in the homes of the opposition noticed a correspondent's amusement over the traffic turmoil. "Traffic conditions here," the Vietnamese said, smiling sarcastically, "are symbolic of the political state of our country. The driver who can frighten the other drivers the most is the one that gets through."

One wonders how long Diem can stay behind the wheel of the South Vietnam government. The dollar is doing more to keep him there than all his American advisers together, but despite the old saying the dollar

is not "almighty." One hears conflicting stories about the state of affairs here, each with a slant that indicates its source. Certainly the situation is completely out of control. On that all are agreed.

All the powers and all the re-



Ngo Dinh Diem

ligious-political sects with an interest in the welfare of Vietnam are anti-Communist, but their mutual hostility gives one the feeling that they have lost sight of the coming elections. Diem's only claim to leadership is his strong anti-French feeling, but attacking the French and at the same time cooperating with them because they still control the purse strings is not fighting communism. Nor is letting thousands of refugees from the North wander through the streets of Saigon begging for a crumb of bread. Nor is Diem's blindness to the corruption of many of his officials. Some persons question his motive in running out of the city the religious-political Binh Xuyen, which controlled Saigon's police, gambling, and brothels. "Was it not to transfer these lucrative operations to his government?" they ask.

The French, moreover, are still there; some 80,000 troops of the French expeditionary force occupy an area in and around Saigon. The French officials are now trying to get trade and other concessions from Ho

SAM A. JAFFE is The Nation's roving correspondent in Southeast Asia.

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Chi-minh. France has no interest in Indo-China other than a purely economic one. It has proved this by arming and supplying the Binh Xuyen gangsters, still some 3,000 strong, against the Nationalist government. It is also arming the Hoa Hao, the largest of the religious-political sects, against the Diem regime.

The sects, like the French, are anti-Communist; like the Nationalist government, they are anti-French. With the exception of the Cao Dais, who have joined forces with Diem, they are out to overthrow the Nationalists and assume command. To accomplish this they will accept military aid from anyone and give nothing in return except a promise to continue fighting the National government.

The United States has been caught in the middle of all this. As one army officer put it, "Sure, Diem is a bad apple, but you should see the rest of the barrel." If the United States could, it would boot the French out of Vietnam, but at present it must not only cooperate with them but pour millions into the French expeditionary force. This is because months ago it was willing to offer almost anything to get the French to support the rearmament of Germany. What concessions the United States made to France at the time is known only to the State Department and the French Foreign Office, but concessions were made,

and for the present we have to play along with the French. We can be assured, however, that the United States will not allow them to get completely out of hand in Vietnam.

No one here imagines that America will pull out the rug from under Diem and back some other leader. There is no other.

IN SAIGON there is one man with a solution. But he admits it must be put into effect quickly or all will be lost. I am not permitted to give his name, but he is an American official who works around the clock attempting to whip the Diem government into shape. He has a deep belief in America and its great past, which, he reminds you, was the result of its success in throwing off colonial rule. He also has a deep belief in the Asians. He feels strongly that our Asian foreign policy should not be to support any one group or government but the will of the Asian peoples.

He speaks of concrete plans now under way in Vietnam for the reconstruction of the country. These include the resettling of over 800,000 refugees. Land will be granted them and money given them to build new homes—if needed, more money can be obtained through a low-interest loan. He speaks with enthusiasm of the work being done by TRIM, the American Training Relations and Instructions Mission under the able command of Lieu-

tenant General John W. O'Daniel, in helping the Vietnamese build and maintain a strong military force. He hopes for much from the teams of Americans under USMO, the United States Operations Mission, who go into the Vietnamese countryside to ascertain the wants of the people. Their reports are filled with the need for schools, bridges, communications, hospitals, sanitation, and the many other necessities of life that might stem the tide of communism.

But this American knows that economic aid is only part of the huge task that lies ahead, for without a strong, efficient, and honest government in Vietnam all the money in the world will not stop Ho Chi-minh from claiming the whole of Indo-China as his by 1956. He says there must be free elections in the south for a Representative Assembly, and within sixty days. Will the Assembly be representative? he is asked. "It must be," he replies. He points out that the religious-political sects are too strong to be left out of the government.

He sees no other way to save the free world's efforts in Vietnam from complete failure. It is not an easy or a pleasant job to keep a man like Diem in power, a man who ignores America's advice while reaching into America's pocketbook. But Diem must be upheld. This American believes that if we lose Vietnam, we shall have lost all Asia.

LABOR'S DIXIE VICTORY

Politicians Are Impressed . . . by Alfred Maund

Birmingham, Alabama

"THEY are trying to make the South a guinea pig in a test tube. They are trying to run over the workers and make them work for low wages, and I resent it." Governor James E. Folsom of Alabama was talking about big corporations. He had specifically in mind the

ALFRED MAUND is on the staff of The Nation.

Louisville and Nashville Railroad and the Southern Bell Telephone Company, which fought strikes of record length and bitterness this spring.

There is good ground for the view that these strikes were deliberate tests of the strength of unions in the South, and the results will be studied by both the C. I. O. and A. F. of L. leadership for clues to the temper of the South and the fiber of the

Southern worker. With runaway shops common in all industries, with a mere 15 per cent of the Southern labor force carrying union cards, with Southern Congressmen blocking progressive labor legislation, American organized labor, after the impending merger, can be expected to make a new Operation Dixie its major concern.

The crucial issue in both strikes was management's refusal to agree

to arbitration of disputed points. Behind this refusal was management's knowledge that an arbiter



would be likely to be guided by practices in effect in similar industries in other parts of the country. The companies were willing to sweat out long strikes to preserve policies peculiar to the South.

MEMBERS of the Louisville and Nashville's ten non-operating unions stayed out fifty-eight days to force the railroad to submit to arbitration a health and welfare plan. The case of management was stated by the Richmond, Virginia, *News-Leader*, as follows: "Standing firm where other railroads had supinely surrendered, the L. and N. . . . refused to impose upon its employees a program of compulsory health and hospitalization insurance . . . that would have required the railroad to take \$3.40 a month from the pay of each employee, whether the employee had other insurance, whether he had approved the deduction, whether he preferred an alternative voluntary plan offered by the railway."

The plan on most railroads is for management and workers to share equally the cost of the program—\$6.80 per worker per month. By holding firm, the 25,000 L. and N. workers won more than the prevailing pattern. On May 20 a Washington attorney acting as referee cited the trend toward employer-supported health plans and ruled that the railroad should pay the whole premium.

The victory did not come easy. One striker was shot to death, several trains were derailed, bridges were dynamited or burned, nasty incidents of stoning, ambushing, and knife-wielding occurred. The key to the union's success was the support of the operating brother-

hoods. Engineers and firemen respected the picket lines from the outset. When the railroad ordered them to duty, threatening them with loss of seniority, the brotherhoods went on strike themselves, calling the threat a breach of contract. In Alabama the attempt to operate trains with non-union personnel was halted by the state public-service commission as a menace to public safety. Although injunctions forbade picketing of other lines to which the L. and N. was transferring freight, the railroad's operations were reduced to 10 per cent of normal during the entire strike period.

THE outcome of the strike against Southern Bell was less clear cut. As the Communications Workers of America learned in 1947, fighting the American Telephone and Telegraph Company is a tough proposition. At that time the entire system was struck. This spring 50,000 workers in nine Southern states tried to pin down one arm of the octopus, an even tougher job.

The Southern locals of the C. W. A. have long been conscious of their second-class status. As J. M. Van Houten, Alabama director of the union, said: "Telephone workers in the South were the only employees in the Bell system not to get a pay raise in 1954. . . . The wage differential is not merely North versus South, but wages differ between Montgomery and Birmingham, and between Birmingham and smaller towns of the South for those doing the same work. . . . Wages in Montgomery may have a \$20 a week differential with some Northern cities. Yet Bureau of Labor statistics show that the cost of living in the South is about the same as in the North." The maximum pay of operators in 1954 ranged from \$57 a week in cities the size of Atlanta to \$43 in smaller towns.

However, the issue that precipitated the strike was not primarily wages but arbitration. The union refused to accept a no-strike clause unless the company agreed to submit grievances on all contract points to binding arbitration. According to Van Houten, Bell had first presented, then withdrawn this no-strike proposal in negotiations with eighteen other unions. As interpreted by the C. W. A., the clause

would prevent its members from honoring the picket lines of other unions.

The grievances of the telephone workers had been aired in numerous "quickie" strikes called in various localities in protest against the punishment or dismissal of employees. These spontaneous, often successful gestures were the only means of seeking redress that employment conditions at Bell permitted. Final say on the justice of supervisory decisions was exclusively in the hands of supervisors. Appeal could be taken only from branch office to district office to headquarters in Atlanta. Management kept tab on the most minute details of the workers' private lives—according to a statement issued by the Birmingham C. W. A. local—entered all items on the individual's personnel record, and used them to keep the employees in line.

The odds against a successful tie-up of Southern Bell were considerable. Besides the dial systems which could continue local service, there was an ample supply of supervisory and front-office employees to step into the breach. According to Joseph S. Beirne, C. W. A. national president, thousands of supervisors were brought in from other Bell affiliates.

Backing the C. W. A. strikers was a fund made up of contributions by fellow-members the nation over. In the late stages of the strike a gift of half a million dollars was received from an "anonymous" source—some



disgruntled party-line subscriber, a wag guessed—and the national C. I. O. gave \$1,250,000. But the grass-roots, voluntary assistance lent by C. I. O. and A. F. of L. locals in other industries played a major role in the sixty-eight-day struggle.

I have no space to chronicle the violent incidents. Henry H. Bolin,

president of the Birmingham C. W. A. local, accused the company of hiring professional criminals for acts of violence, of manhandling women pickets, offering bribes, cutting off strikers' phone service, and using special influence to get police intervention. A police-court judge promised to throw the book at strikers convicted of violence. When a crowd of some five hundred sympathizers gathered outside the exchange in Birmingham to protest against an injunction limiting the number of pickets to three, the police arrested sixteen of them on charges of loitering and disorderly conduct—beating up a housewife in the process, according to the union. C. I. O. and A. F. of L. officials thereupon demanded the removal of the police commissioner and accused Bell of importing strike-breakers from outside the state in violation of the federal Burns Act.

At first newspaper opinion and possibly public opinion was hostile to the strikers—for even television reception was occasionally interfered with. But after the L. and N. strike was ended by arbitration, an impatient public began to look askance at Southern Bell's contention that it would not be "in the public interest" to permit an arbiter "unfamiliar" with the telephone industry to settle personnel problems. In essence, Bell was refusing to arbitrate the question of including arbitration provisions in its contract with the C. W. A.

This unyielding attitude irritated the committee of Southern governors who met with Bell and union officials. Governor White of Mississippi, not usually considered a supporter of unions, was provoked into accusing the company of not wanting to settle the strike. Governor Folsom declared afterward that Alabama should have a law permitting the state to take over the operation of strike-bound utilities. In Washington, Senator Estes Kefauver criticized the company's position, entering in the *Congressional Record* the contrasting replies he had received to an appeal to the opposing sides.

An agreement was finally reached on May 20. Southern Bell asserted that the terms were substantially those it had offered before the strike began. The C. W. A. denied this,

declaring that it had achieved a "fair" contract and a "moral victory." The union accepted a no-strike clause qualified by the provision that workers could refuse to cross the picket lines of other unions engaged in "lawful strikes." The Federal Mediation Service said that the agreement provided "broader arbitration of disputes . . . including disputes involving suspension of employees and disciplinary action taken under the no-strike clause." The company said that pension and benefit plans, leaves of absence, compliance with health and safety measures, and demotions and discharges during trial periods were exempted from arbitration. Workers received wage increases ranging from one to four dollars a week. The regional pay differentials remain.

The contract was ratified by 115 of the 120 locals, often by narrow margins. In Birmingham, for example, the ratio in favor was four to three. Many voted against ratification because of the company's refusal to rehire the 150-odd employees fired for "misconduct" during the strike. Their cases will be individually submitted to arbitration. In contrast, the L. and N. took back all workers without prejudice.

THE last few months have presented firm evidence that Southern workers are tired of being considered "docile" and "cheap." One of the most impressive aspects of the rail and telephone strikes was the display of union militance by women and Negroes, two traditionally subservient sources of labor. Disputes in other industries hinged on the same demands for dignity and justice. In New Orleans 1,500 members of the United Packinghouse Workers who went out on strike at two sugar refineries for a 10-cents-an-hour raise were bitterly conscious that "even when we get the dime, we'll still be 39 cents an hour behind the Eastern refineries." At Miami Beach ten swank hotels are being picketed by employees demanding that the A. F. of L. Hotel Employees Union be recognized as their bargaining agent. Wages in these pleasure palaces dip below 70 cents an hour for a seven-day work week.

There is also basis for the belief that Southern politicians have become uncertain about the position

they should take on organized labor. The effort of the Southern Governors' Conference to mediate the rail and telephone strikes was a far cry from the former eagerness of their Excellencies to use the state militia to enforce their economic views. Anti-union forces in the South are launching drives to bring to book public officials who spoke out in behalf of the strikers. A prime target is Alabama's "Big Jim" Folsom, who blamed the disputes on the "right-to-wreck" laws and committed the unforgivable impropriety of saying that "the telephone company is the largest, dominatingest, most monopolistic corporation in the world. When a corporation gets as all-powerful as A. T. and T. it should become some sort of public corporation."

On May 28, acting on a handout from the local Chamber of Commerce, the Montgomery, Alabama, *Advertiser* opened a hatchet attack on Folsom with the following story. Names were omitted to protect the visiting capitalists.

Last January the general manager of _____ (a household-appliance manufacturing company) wrote the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce that he had become interested in Montgomery as a possible site for a satellite factory employing thirty-five to forty workers. But by April the manager's favor for Montgomery had grown so that, in addition to this small plant, he wondered if Montgomery wasn't the place to relocate a factory unit for which 100,000 square feet would be required. . . .

On the afternoon of May 2 the president and the general manager, accompanied by their wives, arrived from the East by car and checked in at a hotel. . . . About ten o'clock . . . the general manager announced an abrupt change in plans. . . . The deal was off and they were leaving Montgomery soon after daybreak.

What had happened was that the corporation president bought a copy of Montgomery's afternoon paper and there . . . read Governor Folsom's rash demand that the legislature give him power to seize strike-bound utilities. The visitor was repelled by Folsom's snarling attitude toward business. . . . The executive had no appetite for building a plant that might be subject to seizure by a raging governor.

Thus the strategy becomes clear: friends of labor are to be denounced as foes of industrial expansion in the South.

THE NATION

BOOKS

Gray New World

By John W. Aldridge

THE impact of David Riesman's work over the past several years has been such that any general discussion of his ideas at this time must appear superfluous. It may be said with certainty that Riesman, for better or worse, is now in the public domain, and even though his "position" in the more advanced circles of the mind has been under sporadic siege, one cannot but acknowledge the successes recently made by the hired legions of *Time* in effecting his release into middlebrow adulation. Riesman has now, we may say, begun to suffer the typical fate of the good writer or thinker in America, particularly of the kind in whom talent has joined with a sense of the age to create a glow of prophecy nearly indistinguishable from meretriciousness. He has lived to see himself become, at the height of his career, a sort of myth-maker and culture-hero of the leisure-orientated educated classes, the same classes which a generation ago took up Spengler, Ortega, and Freud but which tend today not so much to fashion themselves on ideas as passively to consume them, without noticeable decrease of pallor. His key terms have become established as the common coin of the new cocktail-and-breezeway Bohemia—from which, ironically, the concepts behind some of them derive; and they have had bestowed upon them what in this country is the final proof of popular acceptance—the accolade of misquotation by the illiterately well-read. "The Lonely Crowd," Riesman's core work, is now a best-seller in the abridged paper-back edition; the number of servants its author keeps in his Chicago house has been for several months a matter of public record. At the colleges

JOHN W. ALDRIDGE is the author of "After the Lost Generation" and the editor of "Critiques and Essays on Modern Fiction." His new book of criticism will be published late this year.

the brighter students, in contrast to their elders, are forming themselves on his categories, quite consciously seeking "autonomy" and looking ahead to the time when they will be able to take a course in it. Others still brighter are discovering in "other-direction" a patent excuse for their silence and conformism.

Meanwhile, from the intellectual camp the sniping continues. In the autumn, 1954, issues of *Partisan Review* and *Dissent*, Elizabeth Hardwick and Norman Mailer, reviewing Riesman's latest book, "Individualism Reconsidered," charge him with a variety of offenses ranging from opportunism through conservatism to complacent optimism about the changing character of our culture. Mailer's discussion, which I take to be the most penetrating we have yet had of Riesman's whole "case," turns on the excellent point that what Riesman has given us is essentially a fiction rather than a sociological analysis of American culture, a creative image whose value must be judged not by its truth to Reality—if such exists—but as in a novel by the quality of the mind and the depth of the life behind it. While in Riesman's case Mailer does not assess either of these at very much, his point seems to me an important one in putting us on to the primary fact about the best of Riesman's work, particularly, "The Lonely Crowd": that within its obvious and perhaps very narrow limits it is wholly successful as a work of the creative and intuitive intelligence. The insights it employs differ in quality but not in kind from the insights employed in any serious novel to achieve realism or verisimilitude, and its success derives like a novel's from the thoroughness with which it explores and dramatizes the problems set by its subject.

I imagine that this sort of success, in place of the sterner academic variety, is one of the reasons Riesman has earned such a large share of dislike among critics. Another

may be that taken merely as sociology "The Lonely Crowd" at once runs afoul of both our current mistrust of programmatic definitions and our vastly inflated egocentricity, which causes us to reject those definitions which take into account less of life than we are daily bewildered by. But taken as fiction "The Lonely Crowd" presents us with a dramatic image of ourselves which we can respond to and learn from, precisely as we can learn from the image thrown back by the caricaturing fun-house mirror of a first-rate novel of manners. It does not matter that the image is not "true" and does not do us justice. Neither are statistics and graphs "true," and certainly they never do us justice. What matters is that the image by its very distortion may reflect certain tendencies in us which in twenty or thirty years will become our truth.

In this sense I believe "The Lonely Crowd" to be one of the most important literary expressions the present age in America has had, a book to rank in its implications for Western culture with "The Revolt of the Masses" and "Democracy in America." It is a book, furthermore, which opens for us in a new way the old question of the relationship between literature and society, between the novelist and those portions of his material which we may take to be environmentally given but which from novelist to novelist are never seen to be precisely the same. I should like to argue that, in addition to its relevance to us all, "The Lonely Crowd" is a book which no novelist at the present time can safely ignore or wholly escape, for it may be read as a record of the disappearance from our culture of the social forms which have traditionally afforded the novel its dramatic materials.

WHAT Riesman calls the "inner-directed" man has been the typical hero of fiction from its beginnings and of drama from antiquity. Whether we begin with Oedipus and Tom Jones or Odysseus and Don Quixote, we find the recurring source of drama in the conflict between the obsessive inner drives of the hero and the moral structures of his society which work to deny them fulfilment. One can in fact say that

as the novel has evolved, its form has tended to imitate the movement of the "inner-directed" hero through the various phases of this conflict, precisely as the curve of classical tragedy with its culminating recognition-reversal effect represents the archetypal imitation. The "investigation of illusion and reality," which Lionel Trilling considers to be the proper business of the novel, quite literally depends upon the existence of some "inner-directed" ideal or dream that is so compulsive and blinding that it causes the hero not to *see* or to refuse to *see* in time. Then, as a rule, the novel transports him, and us with him, through a body of experience which proves his illusion to *be* illusion, and reality as always to be transcendent. When this proof appears, we have our moment of recognition and, nearly always, our moment of purgation, for the hero has by now clearly failed, fallen short, been duped, and so must go down in defeat. Or he has undergone initiation, conversion, and been reborn phoenix-like out of the ashes of his former self.

From the Greeks down, indeed from Venus and Adonis and the early fertility cults down, this is the chief dramatic pattern of our racial inheritance; it is in fact the pattern through which our minds naturally express our sense of the cycle and rhythm of life itself; and we recognize its recurrence again and again in the drama, the story, and the novel. It has given us in modern times some of our most memorable fictional characters—Emma Bovary, Lambert Strether, Raskolnikov, Babbitt, Axel Heyst, Jay Gatsby, Fred-eric Henry, Willie Stark, Willy Loman—and in the novel of the past, where it tends to be clearer because more firmly buttressed by the dramatizing agents of property, religion, money, and class, it has given us very nearly the whole of our formula for seeing and evaluating the reality around us. So completely has this been true that it is only with the greatest difficulty, the most painful renovation of our habits of insight, that we can discard its stereotype and see in the new reality around us the change which has rendered the stereotype invalid.

This change, which if Riesman is correct has resulted in the rise of a

new "other-directed" personality type, must cause us drastically to revise our conception of drama, just as it must drive the novel either to extinction or to the discovery of new dramatic effects. With the disappearance of "inner-directed" man the illusion generated by ideals also disappears, along with the dramatic action taken in the name of ideals, and drama of the traditional kind becomes impossible. What the new "other-directed" man apparently requires is the approval of others, usually of the others in what Riesman calls his "peer-group." But the difficulty from the standpoint of drama is that the need for approval does not express itself in the form of an ideal or represent a basis for dramatic action. It is not a drive compelling the individual toward the realization of selfhood. What is, in fact, most intriguing about it is that it seems to have no ideological basis whatever, but is simply the result of a vague, generalized feeling of anxiety. The need to please others does have, however, a very real though largely unrecognized practical basis. In a society in which, as Riesman shows, "inner-directed" traits are no longer required by industry and therefore no longer serve as criteria for the judgment of individual worth, a person's agreeableness or niceness becomes the only criterion by which he can be judged; his "personality" becomes his only distinguishing or salable commodity. But "personality" in such a society does not mean a set of traits which particularize or set off an individual from others. The requirement that he be approved of by everyone forces the individual, on the contrary, to suppress his particularizing traits—if he has any—on the ground that someone, anyone, might not like them, with the result that "personality" becomes, for him, innocuousness and anonymity. What we are therefore faced with in Riesman's gray new world is a situation in which the drives have disappeared that might have caused the individual to act dramatically and, at the same time, a situation in which dramatic action is seen as a threat to the one kind of satisfaction that the society still considers worth while.

We ought also to take into account the parallel disappearance in

Riesman's world of the older patterns of social class as the way of life has become increasingly standardized, as wealth has come to be distributed more widely and evenly, and as aristocratic traditions have grown thin. One effect of this has been to deprive the novelist of the means of distinguishing among characters through differences in their appearance and manners, social position and breeding. He has also been deprived of some of his oldest themes—the movement of the individual up and down the scale of class; his struggle for wealth and prestige; his moral orientation toward money, money not simply to buy *things* but to keep up the family honor or estate, as one sees it dramatized in Jane Austen, George Eliot, and Henry James; and lastly what Lionel Trilling has called the theme of the "Young Man from the Provinces."

This is the young man of "provincial birth and rearing . . . [who] starts with a great demand upon life and a great wonder about its complexity and promise. He may be of good family but he must be poor. He is intelligent . . . but not at all shrewd in world matters. He must have acquired a certain amount of education, should have learned something about life from books, although not the truth." He should be in a position to move from a state of innocence to a state of knowledge, from "inner-directed" idealism, perhaps, to initiation in "other-directed" experience. Mr. Trilling mentions several novels in which the Young Man from the Provinces has figured as hero—"The Red and the Black," "Pere Goriot," "Lost Illusions," "Great Expectations," "Sentimental Education," perhaps "War and Peace" and "The Idiot." And one might add to the list out of our own literature "The Leather-Stocking Tales," "Huckleberry Finn," "The Red Badge of Courage," some of James, "An American Tragedy," some of Lewis, "Winesburg, Ohio" and "Dark Laughter," "In Our Time," "One Man's Initiation," "Manhattan Transfer," parts of "USA," all of Fitzgerald and Wolfe, "The Wild Palms," Farrell's Studs Lonigan and Danny O'Neill novels, and coming up to the present, "All the King's Men," "Catcher in the Rye," "Other Voices, Other

Rooms," "End as a Man," "The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter," and Bellow's "The Adventures of Augie March."

The novelist in the predominantly "other-directed" culture of today, however, is faced with a situation in which increasingly everyone tends to look, dress, and act like everyone else, to drive the same cars, to live in the same kind of houses, and, because of the power of the mass media, even to think the same thoughts. As for the Young Man from the Provinces, he is an antique figure, a literary stereotype of which the type in life can scarcely be said any longer to exist. The ignorant, domineering parents and community which he characteristically rejected in the name of his ideal, his illusion of life as it should be, have been replaced, for the most part, by parents of intelligence and understanding and by a community which so closely resembles the city to which he formerly escaped that there is no effective difference between them. The Young Man himself, or his comparable type, is no longer provincial or idealistic. Dreams of glory, wealth, and adventure no longer obsess him. His future course is clear and realistic. The safe job with the corporation or university, the pretty wife and children, the ranch-style house, the Ford that looks like a Cadillac—these are the goals toward which his heroism is directed, his dramatic escape is made.

THE movement which in the last fifty years the novel in America records is the movement gradually away from the "inner-directed" phase of our cultural development toward the phase of at least incipient "other-direction." In Dreiser, Lewis, Fitzgerald, Dos Passos, Wolfe, and Farrell one is repeatedly struck by how much the dramatic intensity depends on the conflict between the rural and pioneer virtues of moral innocence, honesty, thrift, and fidelity, on the one hand, and the urban and modern attributes of knowledge, corruption, infidelity, and promiscuity on the other. One also recognizes just as often the conflict between the provincial drives toward material success and increased social status and the resistance put up against them by competition or



"A dull morning ushered in the ninth of November 1918 in Berlin . . . the streets looked as they had looked for many months past. Men, most of them middle-aged and old, all of them weary, were hurrying to the factories. Women were hurrying to the factories. Many of them had a lemon-coloured complexion; they worked in munitions plants and handled picric acid. There were other women; they carried the morning newspapers from door to door. Other men; they carried long poles with which they turned out the gas-jets high up on the lamp-posts. There were no bakers on their rounds with rolls (the Berliner's traditional breakfast food), no milkmen on their rounds with milk; there were no rolls, there was no milk.

"The street-cars were driven by women; the conductors, too, were women. The street-cars, the city trains, the underground trains clattered along noisily; their bearings were worn out and there was not enough metal to replace or repair them, not enough grease to lubricate them properly. The people clattered along noisily; they were ill-clad and their shoes had soles of wood and their heels had rims of steel.

"Everywhere in the streets of the capital were soldiers in groups of three . . ."

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prejudice or political chicanery. Lewis's *Babbitt* is what might be called an "inner-directed, other-directed" type. Like the "other-directed" business man of today, *Babbitt* wants to be well liked, but the vastly important distinction to be made between the two is that *Babbitt* has strongly "inner-directed" reasons for wanting to be well liked. He wants success, wealth, and position while today's business man usually wants merely security and, in his lonely isolation from the motives and springs of being, a constant assurance that he is accepted by others.

Scott Fitzgerald's *Gatsby* is a perfect example of the strongly "inner-directed" type dedicated to the fulfilment of his dream in a society already passing into "other-direction." Nick Carraway, furthermore, is the type of the provincial Young Man who, in the face of the corruption of this society, does *Gatsby's* learning for him, conducts his moral education by proxy. Jack Burden functions in Warren's "All the King's Men" in a very similar way. Willie Stark, the fiercely "inner-directed" man, dies unchanged and essentially undefeated, but Jack is initiated and undergoes conversion, is metaphorically reborn with a new father and mother, a new past and future, a future based largely on the virtues of "other-direction." The heroes of Farrell and Wolfe are nearly all drawn on the type of the provincial Young Man. Eugene Gant, George Webber, Studs Lonigan, and Danny O'Neill are simply confronted with experience, most of it for the first time, and the novels merely record their reactions, their progress toward moral fulfilment or destruction.

When we come to the thirties, however, we notice that the novels depicting the change from "inner" to "other-direction" begin to be replaced by novels in which social scene gives way to social crisis and the portrayal of special social groups victimized by the depression. Farrell's work overlaps this category, and the novels of Steinbeck and Caldwell are centered directly within it. Through the novels of the forties and the second war the social scene recedes still farther, the depression disappears, and there develops a preoccupation with social

and psychological *problems*—the war experience, race prejudice, homosexuality, and insanity. Now in the fifties these subjects have largely faded out, the social scene is scarcely discernible, and there are signs of concentration upon rather thin childhood and domestic situations, in which the drama tends to center in a subtle psychic conflict between characters and in which occasionally a climaxing instance of violence effects in them a species of conversion—as happens in Jean Stafford's "The Mountain Lion," Robie Macauley's "The Disguises of Love," and Peter Matthiessen's "Race Rock."

Not only does the reflection of the social scene in novels after the twenties and thirties seem repetitious following the appearance of such books as "The Great Gatsby" and "USA," but the social scene itself, marked as it is by increasing

"other-direction," tends to be less and less *worth* reflecting. It is quite possible, although it may well be brash, to argue that most Americans today literally don't *do* anything. Their goal is, in fact, a condition of life in which they will not be required to do anything ever again. This, I suspect, is what the poet John Berryman meant when he said that "a man can live his whole life in this country without finding out whether or not he is a coward." The novel has consequently been forced to concern itself with more and more marginal and aberrant subjects in its unceasing effort to keep alive and to discover fresh materials for drama. The movement from social crisis to perversion to the stunted domestic epiphany may be seen in this sense to represent the novel's adjustment to the gradual failure of dramatic possibilities in our culture.

American Distrust of the Mind

AN END TO INNOCENCE: ESSAYS ON CULTURE AND POLITICS. By Leslie Fiedler. The Beacon Press. Cloth, \$3.50; paperback, \$1.25.

By John W. Ward

LESLIE FIEDLER has in one sense of the word a curious mind. He delights to turn an object about under the light of his intelligence until the dimly seen is suddenly luminous, and he is able to project his insights sharply. Yet, despite these strengths, he has written a disturbingly unsatisfying book.

"An End to Innocence" is a collection of essays published in various journals over the last seven years. The organizing theme, the pervasiveness of innocence in American culture, is treated in three parts: Part I, An Age of Innocence, is political (Hiss and Chambers, the Rosenbergs, and McCarthy); Part II, Innocence Abroad, is a backward glance at America from Italy and includes perhaps the finest essay of all, Roman Holiday; Part III, The End of Innocence, is mainly literary

—essays on Whitman, Fitzgerald, Huckleberry Finn, the American novel, plus Montana, or the End of Jean-Jacques Rousseau, which is as much fun as its title. The method is to give social documents the close scrutiny usually reserved for literature and to give literature the wider treatment usually reserved for political events. The result is an image of America full of paradox and complexity and colored by a sense of guilt which Mr. Fiedler finds new as well as controlling in our experience.

The first section, on politics, is the weakest, except for parts of McCarthy and the Intellectuals. Perhaps it is because the guilt which Mr. Fiedler finds general is more personal here. There is a compulsive quality to the anxious reiteration of the failure of liberals to assess the political situation in recent years. What wisdom are we to derive from the recognition that men of intelligence and good-will were drastically wrong about the most important political fact of our time while "the buffoons and bullies, those who *knew* really nothing about the Soviet Union at all, were right—stupidly right, if you will, accidentally right, right for the wrong reasons, but damnably right." Even

JOHN W. WARD, a member of the Department of English at Princeton University, is the author of "Andrew Jackson: Symbol for an Age."

if this were true, what is its use beyond miring us deeper in frustration? And to say that the self-delusion of a traitor is "symbolical" truth-telling is a violation of the integrity of words inexcusable even in one who claims "a moral passion rather than a cooler technical concern" for language.

BUT the failure of American liberalism to escape its simple Manichaean distinction between bad business and good people was disastrously innocent and nowhere more so than in its attempts to combat McCarthy. Historically, the intellectual has tended to see himself allied in some Whitmanesque sense with "the people," and it came as a brutal surprise to discover that the basic source of McCarthy's strength was his appeal to a native distrust of intelligence; McCarthy is, as Mr. Fiedler says, "an American instance." McCarthyism "not only flourishes

in but is this hostility between the community and its intelligence." So even if the current symbol of our distrust of the mind seems to have lost power, there is little cause for self-congratulation; the disorder is still deeply part of our national character.

The unsatisfying quality of "An End to Innocence" derives from something more basic. It is the glaring contrast between Leslie Fiedler's ability to discover important themes in American culture and his unwillingness to pursue them rigorously that is the real weakness of his book. To read these essays consecutively is to realize that with all their brilliance the talent is superficial. At the beginning Leslie Fiedler says he is an "occasional" writer, and one senses that he takes satisfaction in the fact. He owes it to himself to rid himself of his satisfaction. He needs to become curious in the full sense of the word.

Art

S. Lane Faison, Jr.

WHILE the liberal-arts college has a first duty to educate its students, on occasion this purpose is well served by aiming at a broader public. Such an occasion was provided recently by Bennington College in a wonderfully successful Symposium on Music and Art.

Subtitled "An Assessment of Vital and Controversial Developments in This Country During the Last Three Decades," it offered discussions by Roger Sessions and Edgard Varese, composers; Jose Luis Sert, dean of the Graduate School of Design at Harvard; Herbert Ferber, sculptor; James Johnson Sweeney, critic and museum director; Jane Fiske Mit-rachi, writer on industrial design; Thomas Bouchard, producer of documentary films on art; and Alexander Dorner, of the Bennington faculty, who finds in the movies a potential means of a new cultural integration. The symposium opened with a retrospective showing of the painting of Hans Hofmann, and closed with a concert of music by Sessions, Ives, Ruggles, and Varese—all present save Ives, whom one half

expected to appear in some reincarnation. It attracted a large and enthusiastic audience, including artists not officially listed; and some of them participated in two general discussions moderated by Jacques Barzun and Bartlett Hayes. Another artist, Miro, was all but physically present through Bouchard's new film, "Round and About Miro," which was shown in the form of a black-and-white negative of what is to be a color film. As one person expressed it to me, only nature looked strange in this medium—you were forced to see shapes, not things, in the white shadows: Miro's art underwent the transformation without any difficulty whatever.

It is not easy to summarize these proceedings, or to estimate precisely their value. To begin with, there was the heady exhilaration induced by the attendance itself. There was also the challenge to come to grips with new and path-breaking work. There was reassurance in the sincerity and dedication of the artists themselves as they participated in

the discussions, often disagreeing, often becoming involved in semantic difficulties which are supposed to be the special bane of the teaching profession. There was the rapt attention of the students, and their not so rapt attention when the going got long-drawn-out or labyrinthine. But the impression was unmistakable that many of these students were gaining a fresh understanding of music and art as expressive of modern values. Finally, there was the unlimited opportunity for discovery of relationships between the several arts: persons knowledgeable in one found confirmation and challenge in others.

Most of the discussions took place in the Carriage Barn, where the Hofmann paintings were hung. It was interesting, to this observer at least, how they grew on one on repeated and extended acquaintance. In his provocative foreword to the catalogue Clement Greenberg castigates those who take the easy path of crediting Hofmann with greater value as a teacher than as an artist. I confess to have been of their company. I still believe that Hofmann varies most disconcertingly in quality from work to work. The shock power of his art has impressed me more than the staying power. What came through for me this time was its buoyance, its sheer joyousness, and above all its compact construction. On the whole there is a gradual development from the densely crowded and occasionally morose work of ten years ago to a more open and freer style, with plain backgrounds setting off a controlled counterplay of massive, tusk-like forms. Any such statement needs immediate qualification, however, because Hofmann constantly turns from one style to another within the overall style that is unquestionably his own. I disagree with Greenberg as to the expressiveness of Hofmann's color dissonance, finding greater value in the complex meshing of weights held in crushed suspension. Again, one must qualify in particular instances, as in the dramatic surprise of the pinks and whites in *Scotch and Burgundy*. It is a perilous suggestion, but none the less I venture to say that the equilibrium of *Perpetuita* does not depend very fundamentally on the relations of its light blue, tan, and pink, and that the same composition

in another color scheme could be equally satisfying, or more so.

Sweeney's first-night address, which maintained that the American idiom is primarily linear within a flattened space, as against the form-language of masses and deep space in Latin-Mediterranean arts, was warmly challenged, particularly when the film on Miro explored his flat and linear forms and found them deeply rooted in the scenery of Catalonia and the traditions of its Romanesque art and in everyday sights of Barcelona itself. It was unfortunate that Sweeney was not able to be present to defend his controversial point of view, for which I think there is much to be said.

The American premiere of

Varese's *Deserts* (1954) was the climax of the whole occasion. I pretend to no insight as a music critic and defer to others' superior understanding, but I will conclude this piece by reporting that what at first seemed the obbligate to a lunar voyage ended by becoming an earthly fantasy: majestic yet tender, terrifying yet rational, an asphalt jungle, a city-scape for the Collective Man, but viewed—I should say heard—by a spirit both intelligent and warm. I am no doubt swayed by the profoundly satisfying experience of hearing the composer discuss his work in a manner as lucid as it was modest. I should therefore label this reaction as purely subjective and thus probably of little value.

great speed in the narrative passages, lots of time in the lyric backwaters—and it was crisply performed by a cast with a fine American look to it.

THE hilarity of "The Seven Year Itch" escapes me. I can snicker once or twice at the spectacle of a summer bachelor making half-hearted passes at an advertisement of the all-American libido, but the joke loses excellence on repetition. And it is mercilessly repeated in George Axelrod's famous comedy.

Perhaps the stage version had more suspense; more variety of slapstick, richer leers. But on the screen it is obvious within ten minutes that Tom Ewell is not going anywhere because there is no place for him to go. He feels called upon to have an affair, but for that he requires a girl and Marilyn Monroe is playing a pillow. Playing it brilliantly, too, if that is what she was asked to do: You would not believe that so impressive a girl, so lightly clad, could make so little impression. Mr. Ewell is thus reduced to wrestling with himself on a treadmill, and though he is a skilful comic, he can scarcely sustain the action for an hour and forty minutes.

Of course the whole thing can be looked on as a feverish reverie, the average American male's daydream, compounded of overwork, anxiety, and the blandishments of modern beer advertising. In that case, it is certainly not funny.

FOUR STORM-BOUND motorists, forced to sit up for a night, entertain one another by each telling a story that somehow involves a bed. Hence "The Bed," a multi-lingual film which, despite the Balzac device, develops very little drollery.

In the first episode Richard Burton playing a British paratrooper billeted on the wife of a French soldier spends a harrowing night at the midwife trade. This is passable sentiment, though he could have avoided the responsibility by calling in a neighbor. In the last episode Vittorio de Sica, who unaccountably finds it difficult to look like a middle-aged Italian gentleman, spends the night in a New York hotel room with a proper young lady employed to give his wife grounds for divorce. This is long-winded, arbitrary, and

Theater and Films

Robert Hatch

FRANCIS FERGUSSON is an eminent teacher of the drama, and his "The King and the Duke," which played for three weeks at Circle in the Square, seemed more the solution to a problem set in theater craft than a real work of theater. It became an evening of pleasant entertainment because his solution was right, and more than a little ingenious, but part of the pleasure may have come from seeing how so improbable an exercise could be made to succeed at all. The "experimental" atmosphere of Circle in the Square was a help; "The King and the Duke" would perhaps wilt in the tougher air of the commercial theater.

The test Mr. Fergusson set himself was to convert one of Mark Twain's gaudiest anecdotes into plausible stage material. He calls the solution "A Melodramatic Farce from 'Huckleberry Finn,'" and since he is learned in these matters he probably has reason for the definition. It put me on the wrong scent. I feared bumpkin low comedy in a framework of "opry house" villainy and abused innocence.

The play was nothing at all like that. It turned out to be a small and deft lyric sketch—by no means as filled out as light opera but rather more organized than a minstrel

show—in which the attempt by Mark Twain's two loveliest rogues to pose as the long-awaited uncles from England provides reason enough for an evening of singing, dancing, and ingratiating characterization.

Of course, the characters are Twain's to begin with, but the problem is to bring them to the stage. Twain wrote out of a nostalgia for the river towns, and now we read him with nostalgia for his memories—such layers of sentiment could make sticky cocoons of his witty and highly independent citizens. However, by having his characters sing and move to song, Fergusson preserved both their sweetness and their savor. The pleasant past does tend to come back to us as music.

Not that "The King and the Duke" is all set to song and measures. The plot advances by prose dialogue—Twain's dialogue, as nearly as the theater permits, which, being faintly recollected, has the effect of poetry. But the author sets his scenes and tops off his big moments with music, and you understand that he is bent on a lyric evocation of the Mississippi immortals. In that context they can be at once quaint and full-bodied, picturesque and near at hand.

Jose Quintero directed the play with an excellent change of pace—

arch; De Sica is burdened with a dubbed voice that seems to belong to a Chicago sports announcer, which is unintentionally funny but not very.

Then there is a slapstick "period" affair in which furniture movers cart Pompadour's bed back and forth several times between the national vaults and the apartment of a nineteenth-century government "favorite." This features aging pomposities in alarmed moments of semi-dress and offers occasional belly-laughs. The remaining episode sinks to one of those "and then I woke up" endings, a low trick in any medium.

All in all, "The Bed" promises a good deal more than it delivers—which serves us right for our vulgar expectations.

STANLEY KRAMER has assembled quite a cast for "Not as a Stranger": Olivia de Havilland, Robert Mitchum, Frank Sinatra, Gloria Grahame, Charles Bickford, Broderick Crawford, Myron McCormick, Lon Chaney—it sounds as if all Hollywood had gathered for the Oscar ceremonies, and it must be said that Kramer works them like dogs. This is a "think" picture with box-office glamour.

The "think" arises from the fact that the hero is the villain because of his own virtues. A poor but ambitious medical student (Robert Mitchum) has such high ideals for his chosen profession that he believes a doctor who is not omniscient and infallible should be kicked out of the A. M. A. He also believes that his own potential in these respects is so bright that he is justified in marrying a gullible nurse (Olivia de Havilland) whom he despises, so that her savings account will see him through school. In order to become a really good doctor and an acceptable human being this paragon must learn humility from failure and he must apologize to the splendid woman he has married. You can see it's a stumper.

Kramer is a tireless researcher who spares no expense to get the documentation right. Therefore the picture offers some striking medical reportage on the "Life Goes to an Appendectomy" level. There is also a good deal of side advice on ethics, medical and domestic, delivered for the most part by Crawford and

Sinatra. But since no rational observer can believe that any such put-up dilemma as Dr. Lucas Marsh ever walked a hospital corridor—or any

other corridor—all the high-grade acting and expensive surgical equipment is wasted on a journey to nowhere.

Records

B. H. Haggin

THE fine Brook power-amplifier that I have is no longer being manufactured; and Brociner has discontinued the UL-1, which I recommended as an equivalent alternative a year ago, and now offers the Mark-30 30-watt power-amplifier (\$98.25) with the Mark-30 "audio control center," a self-powered pre-amplifier (\$88.50). The sound from this new combination is excellent, but not quite the equal in beauty of the sound from the UL-1 with its A-100 preamplifier-equalizer and CA-2 control amplifier; however full equality is achieved when the Mark-30 power amplifier is used with the A-100 and CA-2, which Brociner is continuing to offer (\$99, plus \$15 for cabinet if desired), and which I suggest using also because the step-type treble-control provides the steep roll-offs at 9,000 and 7,000 cycles that are needed to cut out the high-frequency distortion on some LP records, in addition to the ones at 5,000 and 3,500 cycles that eliminate the noise of old 78s.

Very fine too is the McIntosh MC-30 30-watt power-amplifier (\$143.50), with which one can use either the C-104 preamplifier (\$59.50, plus \$8 for cabinet if desired), which has a three-position bass-turnover control and uses bass and treble controls for additional compensation; or the C-108 (\$88.50, plus \$8 for cabinet if desired), which offers enormously increased flexibility in compensation, and additional features. I have been using the C-108 with my Brook power-amplifier, and can report first what is of primary importance—the increased beauty of the sound, which is to say the lack of distortion, the cleaner definition in greater quiet. The five bass-turnover and five treble-roll-off switches can be used in many combinations to obtain a greater variety of bass and treble compensation—a much greater variety than I for one have found need for, though I have

found the accurate gradations in roll-offs from 5 db up to 16 very useful (to use them one needs to have McIntosh's new chart of record compensation for the C-108, which earlier buyers should obtain). Valuable too are continuously variable treble- and bass-controls whose operation leaves the mid-range frequency unaffected. The rumble-filter I have found useful once in a while; the aural compensator I have had no use for, and I would gladly have traded it for the one thing this excellent preamplifier lacks—the steep roll-offs that I consider imperative (two are supplied by the filter on my LC-1A speaker; but it would be more convenient to have them in the preamplifier).

Another piece of new equipment I have been using is the Fairchild 220 cartridge (\$37.50). All the things I found so extraordinary in the 215—the greater refinement of the sound, the additional bloom on it, the greater distinctness of the inner strands of a texture—are produced in amazingly greater degree by the 220, in addition to an improved response at both the high and low ends, and an increased output which makes it possible to use the cartridge with the Mark-30 and the McIntosh without a transformer, though one may want a transformer to improve the signal-to-noise ratio. If a transformer is used I still suggest a Brociner in preference to the Fairchild: theoretically a transformer merely steps up volume without affecting quality; but actually the Brociner transformer produces a more beautiful sound than the Fairchild. I should mention that when a friend's newly assembled equipment produced a harsh, strident sound, the substitution of my 220 cartridge for his established the fact that his pickup was defective: the possibility of an occasional defective unit is something to remember.

The arm I am using now is the

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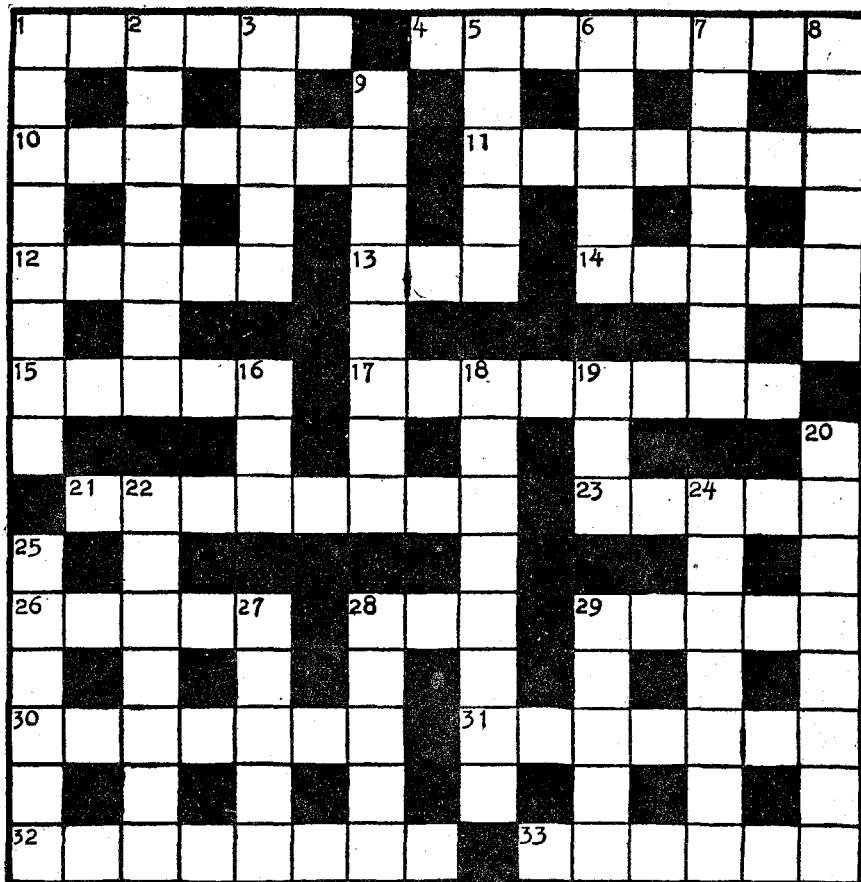
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Crossword Puzzle No. 625

BY FRANK W. LEWIS



ACROSS

- 1 A little something half-way secure. (6)
- 4 Notice the insect stick out in the middle, like a bird! (8)
- 10 Struggle back to take cover — evidently it isn't dressed! (7)
- 11 Friendly question concerning one's potential? (7)
- 12 and 29 across The part that strikes just before someone wins? (5,5)
- 13 Go on with this, if you want to make town. (3)
- 14 Well-known, i.e., celebrated as a relative show-place. (5)
- 15 A near riot in the theater! (5)
- 17 Get a stern grip on something? (4,4)
- 21 Shouldn't run dry as long as it stays that way, as you know! (4,4)
- 23 See 18 down.
- 26 See 6 down.
- 28 Would a cockney find resistance sweet? (3)
- 29 See 12 across.
- 30 Some people have a sort of gift about invention. (7)
- 31 Have a 30? (7)
- 32 Stuffed date, as it seems. (8)
- 33 Does it sound like a person who might stay with you in the gallery? (6)

DOWN

- 1 Instruments responsible for a Samba version around the edge? (8)

- 2 and 5 down If it lands on the roof, the last of 5 might go here. (4, 3, 5)
- 3 She might say "I'd the makings of name for myself". (5)
- 5 See 2 down.
- 6 and 26 across Do they imply nine closed shops in St. Louis? (5,5)
- 7 Around and about. (7)
- 8 See 18 down.
- 9 Anything cultivated should! (Fit to carry, too!) (8)
- 16 What Papa is in play. (3)
- 18 and 8 down, 28 down, 23 across District pearl of song? (8,3,3,2,3,5)
- 19 A frightening sound! (3)
- 20 Imprecation. (8)
- 22 and 29 down This is plumb soft! (7,5)
- 24 Passing over in silence. (7)
- 25 Footwear, or what Johnny does to them. (6)
- 27 She might suggest Uriah's wife went unwashed, or the Biblical town went dry. (5)
- 28 See 18 down.
- 29 See 22 down.

SOLUTION TO PUZZLE No. 624

ACROSS: 9 VANISHED; 11, 27 and 1 NOTHING SUCCEEDS LIKE SUCCESS; 12 MORTALS; 14, 15 and 10 LET THE CAT OUT OF THE BAG; 17 BROWBEAT; 20 RECIFE; 22 POMMELS; 24 ADENOID; 26 JENNER; 28 LOVE IS BLIND. DOWN: 2 IRISH STEW; 3 ENHANCE; 4 UNDO; 5 CATBOAT; 6 SHEET; 7 PAROLE; 8 SAIL HO; 13 SCOTS; 16 UNCONCERNED; 18 ROOMER; 19 ENLARGE; 20 RADICAL; 21 FRIEDA; 23 MANGO; 25 ISMS.

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Fairchild 280 (more exactly the longer 281) (\$29.50). It must be mounted strictly according to the accompanying instructions.

The experts I talk to reported to me that the Thorens E-53/PA motor (approximately \$59) was much quieter than the Rek-O-Kut—even a Rek-O-Kut shock-mounted as mine has to be; and this was confirmed by the Thorens acquired by my friend. An additional desirable feature is the possibility of changing the speed, for old 78s that are too fast or too slow. I should add that here too a unit occasionally turns up with a noticeable pitch-waver, and has to be exchanged.

I heard the new Janszen electrostatic tweeter with Bozak woofers, and found it amazing; but I haven't yet been able to try substituting it for the high end of my LC-1A and hearing how they compare. Meanwhile I continue with, and recommend, the RCA LC-1A (\$180). The cabinet for this speaker should be a box of the infinite-baffle type (no opening other than the one for the speaker-cone) made of 3/4-inch plywood, with dimensions that provide an interior space of 10 cubic feet. To eliminate panel-resonance it must be made rigid—one method being cross-bracing (from side to side, top to bottom, front to back), another being to coat the interior with a mixture of equal amounts of Sears-Roebuck undercoating and sand, which must be allowed two weeks to dry. And the entire interior should be lined with a 2-inch thickness of Aerocor fibreglas of 3/4 pound density (obtainable from dealers in insulation materials). My experts tell me the sound is improved by filling the interior with an additional amount of fibreglas; and how much additional is something I hope to be able to find out from RCA.

A Chicago reader wrote recently that the manager of a retail supply-house there "poo-pooed your description of how the speaker-cabinet should be constructed, saying that he knew more about it than a music critic would." Probably he does; but probably he does not know more than R. T. Bozak, Lincoln Walsh, and the other engineers who are the sources of what I say on the subject.

Less expensive equipment next week.

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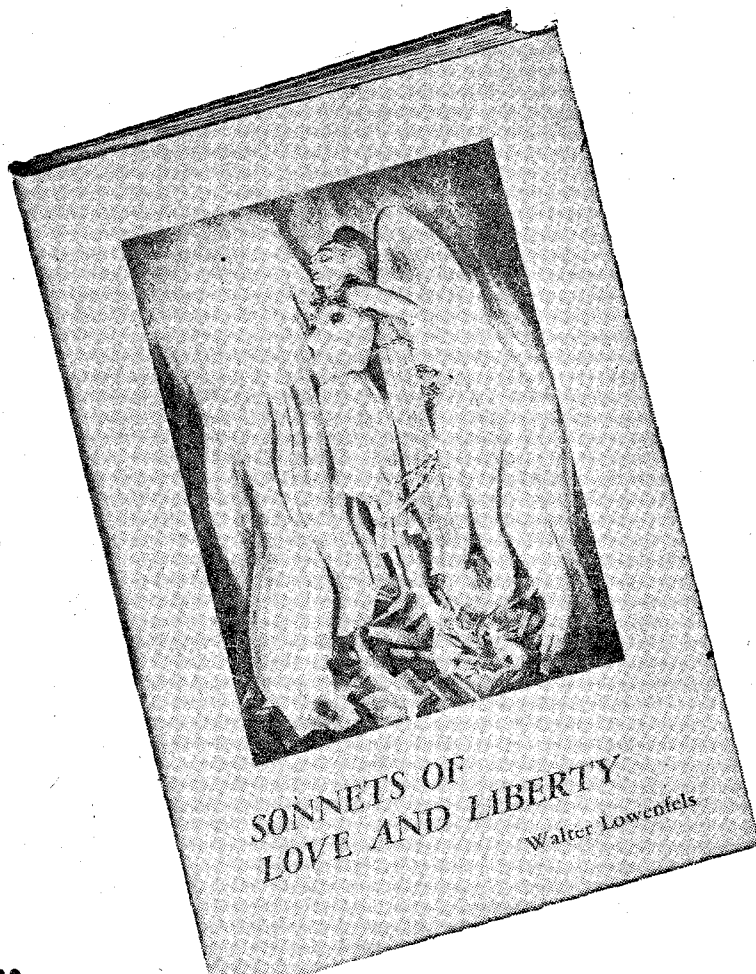
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